

# IN RECOGNITION OF ROBERT McNAMARA

• Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize a man who exemplifies the American dream. Dr. Robert McNamara, an assistant professor of sociology at Furman University, rose from a childhood of Dickensian poverty and violence to become a successful writer, prodigious researcher, and beloved teacher. In addition to devoting much time to instructing and advising his students, he has published nine books; his most recent, "Beating the Odds: Crime, Poverty, and Life in the Inner City," has just been released.

In "Beating the Odds," Dr. McNamara addresses some of our society's fundamental problems while relating them to the trials of his own impoverished childhood. Though it is unusual for an academic to intertwine memoir with analysis, Dr. McNamara's style makes his book all the more compelling.

Bob McNamara was born in New Haven, CT, in 1960, the youngest of four boys. He and his family—"dirty, unkempt, and unruly"—lived a tenuous existence in a squalid section of the city. His abusive and alcoholic father was a compulsive gambler. McNamara's parents divorced when he was 10 years old. Neither wanted to raise him; after a time, they began paying other people to care for him.

As an adolescent, Bob McNamara was sent to live with 19 different families. His abuse and exploitation at the hands of these so-called foster parents convinced him that "being a foster child is one of the most frightening things that could ever happen to a young person." It was not until one of his high school football coaches realized his potential and decided to become his foster parent that McNamara gained a stable and nurturing home.

With the help of supportive teachers and his new foster family, Bob McNamara turned his life around. He worked two jobs to pay for classes at the local community college. After succeeding there, he enrolled in the State university and commuted 60 miles each way to attend classes. He made outstanding grades and won a scholarship to Yale University, where he obtained his doctorate. While at Yale, he met another graduate student, Kristie Maher, whom he would later marry and who also teaches sociology at Furman University.

Dr. Robert McNamara is a living example of the promise of American life. He was born into an abysmally poor and dysfunctional family, with no role models or guidance. He spent much of his childhood stealing for food and running with gangs. But he found purpose in the pursuit of knowledge and nurturing from his teachers, and went on to excel at one of America's elite universities. Today, he is an admired teacher and respected scholar.

Mr. President, "Beating the Odds" is not just the title of Prof. Robert McNamara's latest and most inspiring

book; it is the story of his life. In fact, beating the odds is what the American dream is all about.●

## THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF WALSH COLLEGE

• Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, today I rise to pay tribute to Walsh College on the occasion of their 75th anniversary. Since 1922, Walsh College has been highly instrumental in turning business leaders of tomorrow into business leaders of today. Michiganites, and many others across America, have benefited immensely by the quality of education and rich tradition bestowed upon its students.

Over 11,000 Walsh College alumni have worked to improve Michigan's economy and bring about a better quality of life for those near to them. With over 3,000 students and 4 campuses—soon to be 5 campuses—Walsh College continues to enlarge its positive impact on Michigan's southeastern communities.

It is well known by businesses in Michigan that Walsh students excel in their work. For example, 10 have received the Paton Award for achieving the highest Michigan score on the CPA exam, and 13 have received the Sells Award for placing in the top 100 of those taking the test nationwide. Through its six undergraduate degree programs and five graduate programs, Walsh College brings to Michigan an unparalleled excellence in education.

Again, congratulations for 75 great years in business education and, on behalf of the U.S. Senate, I offer my highest appreciation and praise to all who have made the past 75 years a great success.●

## AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, EXTENSION, AND EDUCATION REFORM ACT OF 1997

• Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, yesterday, the Senate has passed one of the most important agriculture bills it will consider this session. The Agricultural Research, Extension and Education Reform Act of 1997 not only represents a strong statement by the Senate on the importance of research to the future of American agriculture but also a substantive improvement in USDA's research efforts. I am pleased that both sides of the aisle have come together to invest in the future of agriculture and rural communities in this country. I am especially pleased with the cooperation I have enjoyed with the chairman of the Agriculture Committee, Senator LUGAR, and his staff throughout the development of this important legislation.

This bill ensures that our farmers and ranchers have the world's best science and technology to produce food and fiber, protect the environment upon which agriculture depends, and create rural economic opportunities. We are devoting over \$1 billion in new funds over the next 5 years to advance

the science and technology underlying our agricultural system. I am also pleased that we were able to find the resources to improve the nutrition of our Nation's poorest children.

We have also extended the fund for rural America through 2002 and reaffirmed and enlarged our commitment to the pressing development needs of our rural communities. The fund was a key component of the 1996 Farm bill, created to provide funds to help farmers and rural communities to transition into the new farm policy environment. I am pleased we have allocated an additional \$300 million to these purposes so the fund will continue to emphasize creative research and rural development efforts.

This bill contains substantial new initiatives for research and development of new uses for agricultural commodities. I believe that the most important way to increase farm income is to find new nonfood markets for agricultural commodities. New uses activities at the USDA will be conducted in a coordinated manner to garner the maximum benefit from the various research programs. We have authorized the USDA to use its resources to conduct research on lowering the cost of production of alternative agricultural products in cooperation with startup companies, including AARCC companies. Finally, AARCC is a priority for the new research initiative included in this bill.

This bill also contains significant reforms in the current research programs. We have increased the accountability of the research and extension formula funds. We require the Secretary to consult with producers, industry and consumers in setting research priorities. We require external scientific peer-review of ARS research.

Finally, we have taken the first steps in encouraging the inter-State cooperation on research and extension problems. States are required to dedicate a portion of research and extension funds to problems of national or multi-State significance. In the process I believe we are making our research system more responsive to critical issues and we hopefully will eliminate unnecessary duplication of efforts.

Mr. President, we have increased the funding, competitiveness, accountability and credibility of U.S. agricultural research. We have let the world know that we are serious about equipping American agriculture for future food production changes. We also take steps to assure the taxpayer that research dollars are expended in the most efficient manner. We have done all this in a strong bipartisan manner. I think we can all take pride in the fact that today we have made a significant investment in a better future for not only the U.S. farmer and rancher but also in a better future for an increasingly crowded and hungry world.●

# AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, EXTENSION, AND EDUCATION REFORM ACT

• Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I am pleased to support the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act, the 1996 farm bill's research title. This bill will bring many benefits to the Nation's farmers and to producers in North Dakota. This bill is important not only to our farmers but to North Dakota State University, our five Tribal Colleges and all facets of agricultural production that are the State's lifeblood.

In addition to establishing agricultural research priorities, the bill makes positive changes in the operation of the Nation's agricultural research system, which I am pleased to support. Specifically, this bill will increase the accountability of USDA funded research by increasing stakeholder input. Just this year, the North Dakota State Legislature created one of the first stakeholder groups in the country and gave it unprecedented power to direct the agricultural research at North Dakota State University. This 13-member group met for the first time in July to set priorities for agricultural research in North Dakota. We look forward to being able to serve as a model to other States planning to increase stakeholder input.

I am very pleased the Agriculture Committee and now the U.S. Senate have strongly supported funding for agricultural research. Our Nation's economic base was founded on agriculture and as we drift toward an increasingly urban population, we drift from our agrarian roots but we must not ignore the importance of agricultural productivity. North Dakota farmers and livestock producers continually look to increase farm efficiency, profitability, and environmental stewardship by using new technologies. It is critical that federally funded research focus on these goals while producers maintain global competitiveness.

The bill's Initiative for Future Agriculture and Food Systems provides new funding of \$100 million in fiscal year 1998 and \$170 million for each of fiscal years 1999 through 2002 to competitively award research, extension, and education grants on issues related to food genome mapping, food safety and technology, human nutrition, new and alternative uses, production of agricultural commodities, biotechnology, and natural resource management.

These are the directions that agricultural research must go in order for the United States to maintain its edge in the global market while providing greater harmony between agriculture and the environment.

Mr. President, I am very pleased this bill incorporates my proposal to give policy research centers the authority to study the effect trade agreements have on farm and agricultural sectors, the environment, rural families, households and economies. Of special concern are the impacts of Canadian grain

imports and international policies on the Northern Great Plains. Specifically, I would like them to examine the impact of multinational trade policy issues and North American cross-border policies on Northern Plains agriculture, identify strategies to improve export opportunities for this region of the country, and evaluate the impacts of national and international policies on the region's agricultural competitiveness, farm income, farm structure, and rural economies. Policy researchers at North Dakota State University requested this amendment to help obtain funding for the proposed Northern Great Plains Policy Research Center which would serve as part of the Food and Agricultural Policy Research institute consortium. I fully support their proposal.

And finally, Mr. President, I am very pleased that the bill includes provisions to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to grant up to \$5.2 million in each of years 1998 through 2002 to a consortium of land-grant universities combating diseases of wheat and barley caused by *Fusarium graminearum* and related fungi, commonly known as scab. Scab has had a profound effect on the farmers and economy of North Dakota and this year alone it is expected to cause \$1.1 billion in economic damages. I cannot stress enough the importance of research to combat this horrible crop disease and thank my colleague from Minnesota, Senator WELLSTONE, for working closely with me on this issue and my colleague from Indiana, Senator LUGAR, for including these provisions in the manager's package.

Mr. President, so that everyone may fully understand the consequences of this crop disease, I would like to submit an economic analysis of scab's impact on my home State of North Dakota. I would also like to submit for the RECORD a recent newspaper article from the Grand Forks Herald, headlined, "An agricultural nightmare," which describes scab's impacts and discusses the need for research to combat the disease. Mr. President, I ask that both submissions be printed in the RECORD in full.

The material follows:

THE MARKET ADVISER: SCAB LOSSES SEVERE—GEORGE FLASKERUD, EXTENSION CROPS ECONOMIST NDSU EXTENSION SERVICE

Scab in spring wheat, durum and barley will have a severe impact on the economy of North Dakota this year. Estimates by the department of agricultural economics at North Dakota State University put the direct loss to producers at about \$355 million. The total loss is expected to be about \$1.1 billion when the indirect impact on the communities is included. This brings total scab losses since 1993 to about \$2.9 billion. Demecey Johnson and I, with the help of others in the department, calculated the losses.

These losses have severely damaged many farm financial statements. The median debt/asset ratio for North Dakota farmers increased from 48 percent in 1992 to 56 percent in 1996 and is expected to further increase this year. In addition, North Dakota had a

net loss of about 2,000 farms between 1992 and 1996, in many cases due to scab. The debt/asset ratios were derived from the records of farmers in the North Dakota Farm Business Management Education Program.

The total direct loss in 1997 was the greatest of the scab losses since 1993. Yield losses were greater during 1993 and 1995 than during 1997, but, when the price effect was considered, the total direct loss during 1997 was record-setting. The price effect during 1997, to date, has been negative, on average, which accentuates the 1997 yield loss. The price effect has been negative because actual net selling prices have been below what they would have been during a normal year, on average. Many times over the past five years, a positive price effect offset some or all of the loss due to lower yield.

Spring wheat scab losses have generally increased over time when both the yield and price effects are considered. Total direct spring wheat scab losses since 1993 were worse every year except one, the exception being 1996. Barley losses were substantial in three of the five years: the largest was in 1993 followed by 1997 and 1995. For durum, the yield effect exceeded the price effect in two of the five years, 1995 and 1996.

Yield losses were calculated as the difference between trend yields and actual yields. Trend yields were derived from 1970-92 data, leaving out two drought years. The trends were extended to 1997 to derive losses during 1993-97. The yield losses were calculated for Crop Reporting Districts 2, 3, 5, 6, and 9, essentially the eastern portion of North Dakota that has suffered from scab.

Price impacts were calculated as the difference between normal prices and actual net selling prices. For spring wheat, normal prices for 1993-97 were derived from the 1989-92 price relationship between actual net selling prices and Minneapolis futures prices. For durum, normal prices for 1993-97 were derived by multiplying the 1993-97 spring wheat normal prices by a factor of 1.09, which is the long-term price relationship between durum and spring wheat prices. For barley, normal prices for 1993-97 were derived from the 1989-92 price relationship between actual net selling prices and Duluth feed barley prices. These methods permitted both the yield and quality effects to be reflected in the price impacts.

This analysis did not address such factors as insurance indemnity payments and disaster payments. Both were substantial in 1993. Based on my observation of yields in 1997, however, I would expect that insurance indemnity payments will be relatively low this year. Many yields appear to be about at the level where insurance indemnity payments would just start to be realized.

[From the Grand Forks Herald, Sept. 12, 1997]  
AN AGRICULTURAL NIGHTMARE—INFESTATIONS OF SCAB PROVIDE AREA FARMERS LOTS OF PAINS IN AND OUT OF THE FIELDS

(By Erin Campbell)

Termed the Armageddon for wheat and barley and compared with cancer, scab remains an uninvited guest and pillager of small grains fields in the region for the last five years.

"It's not a new disease to the area," says Jochum Wiersma, small grains specialist with University of Minnesota, Crookston. In fact, it's popped up a few times in the region since the turn of the century.

Scab can infest any wheat-growing area if it has the right moisture conditions to develop, he says.

"We certainly are due for a break," says Don Loeslie, a Warren, Minn., farmer.

Wetter-than-normal weather conditions provide tailor-made conditions for scab to thrive and impact the rural economy.